

### 23. RECORD OF LEITH'S SOFTSHELL TURTLE, *ASPIDERETES LEITHII* (GRAY), (FAMILY TRIONYCHIDAE) FROM NILAMBUR, KERALA

Five species of testudines were recorded from Kerala excluding the marine species. They include the Indian pond terrapin (*Melanochelys trijuga*), Indian star tortoise (*Geochelone elegans*), Travancore tortoise (*Indotestudo forstenii*), Cochin forest cane turtle (*Geoemyda silvatica*) and the Indian flapshell turtle (*Lissemys punctata*). Leith's softshell turtle has been reported from a number of localities by Daniel (1983), Tikader and Sharma (1985) and Kalaiarasan *et al.* (1992). This turtle is endemic to Peninsular India (Das 1991). Das (1995) gives the locations of occurrence of the species in Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Orissa and Tamil Nadu.

A specimen of Leith's softshell turtle was obtained from Chaliyar river at Edavanna in Nilambur, Malappuram District, Kerala in March 1994. The river has an approximate width of 150 m and a depth of about 2 m at the collection site. The river bottom was sandy with granite boulders. The flow rate was moderate at the time of collection.

The specimen had a dark olive green

carapace with a light central region. The bony carapace was 46 mm in length and 62 mm width. The margin of the carapace had numerous yellow spots and round markings. The central region of the carapace had light coloured longitudinal striations. The plastron was white in colour and 55 mm in length. The shell height of the specimen was 14 mm.

Leith's softshell turtle is a little known species of the genus *Aspideretes*. According to Smith (1931) and Pritchard (1979), the carapace of the young is adorned with four to six rather well defined ocelli or a pattern of eyelike concentric circles. This character was not observed in this specimen. The present observation is the first record of *A. leithii* from Kerala.

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### 24. THE OCCURRENCE OF THE COMMON TREE FROG *POLYPEDATES MACULATUS* (GRAY, 1834) (FAMILY RHACOPHORIDAE) IN RAJASTHAN

According to Daniel and Sekar (1989), Inger and Dutta (1986), Mansukhani and

Murthy (1964), McCann (1942), Sharma (1992, 1995 a,b) nine species of amphibians *viz.*